

U.S. to Go Ahead and Pay Its Yearly Share to U.N.

By Lewis Gulick
Associated Press

The United States intends to go ahead with its financial contributions to the United Nations despite the failure of the General Assembly to lower the boom on delinquent members, U. S. sources said yesterday.

This means U. S. payments of about \$200 million will be made this year to the United Nations and related agencies, regardless of whether Russia, France and others in arrears pay their IOUs.

Meanwhile, President Johnson was urged by Sen. George

D. Aiken (R-Vt.) to put the strength of his office behind a workable financial formula for the United Nations with which Russia can agree.

"A Punctured Balloon"

In a Senate speech, Aiken said U.S. efforts to force Russia to pay its peacekeeping assessments have "collapsed like a punctured balloon."

Aiken said it would "definitely be in our national interest" if Mr. Johnson would "instruct his representative to the United Nations to reconcile our position with the Soviet and French position on

the assessment of members for peacekeeping functions."

The basic reason Washington plans to go ahead with its contributions is that Administration strategists consider the U.N. system important to U.S. foreign policy interests. A feeble United Nations, they say, is just what the Communists want.

U.S. Wants Bigger Say

At the same time, the United States wants a bigger say in how the taxes voted by the General Assembly are spent—and this, too, regardless of whether the backsliders pay up.

That's because the General Assembly, now up to 115 members with new African states, can muster a two-thirds voting majority from small nations contributing less than 5 per cent of the U.N. budget—and thus make commitments binding on large powers like the United States, which foots 32 per cent or more of the bill.

Money to finance the basic U.N. budget comes from annual assessments set according to each member's ability to pay. Separate assessments are levied for such special projects as peacekeeping.

Article 19 of the U.N. Charter states that any member owing more than the equivalent of two years' assessments shall have no vote in the General Assembly.